

**The Link & Option Center, Inc.
Testimony Before the Budgeting For Results Commission**

October 12, 2011

Good Afternoon Commission members of Budgeting For Results. My name is Twin Green and I am the Founder and President of The Link & Option Center, Inc., a human service organization whose main aim is to keep youth out of the juvenile justice system.

I stand before you today in hopes that I can assist in making informed decisions on implementing a new budgeting for results process that is fair to providers who work hard in the field of prevention.

The Link & Option Center, Inc. since 2000 has provided high-quality comprehensive prevention services to at-risk youth under the DHS TeenREACH after school program. On July 8, 2011, we received a letter informing us that we were not being refunded due to our inability to meet the four performance measures set at 80%. On July 14, 2011 an inquiry was made on our behalf as to this decision and was told, "they were given a chance to correct the issues stated in the improvement plan but were unable to meet the goals. The contract stated that everyone is responsible for meeting their performance measures and that funding could be affected if they do not meet their measures". This response would have been acceptable to me if it had not been for the fact that in my contract it also states that I would be paid for delivering services per submittal of expenditure reports. As it was, the fiscal year payment history for our program is reported at the following:

- Replacement warrant for August 11, 2011 was received on June 27, 2011**
- September 2010 warrant was received on May 17, 2011 (Warrant date 3-10-11)**
- October 2011 warrant was received on April 26, 2011 (warrant date 4-19-211)**

- November 2010 warrant was received on May 9, 2011 (warrant date 5-3-11)
- December, 2011 through February, 2011 warrant was received on June 27, 2011 (warrant date 7-20-11)
- March 2011 and April 2011 warrant was received on August 12, 2011 (warrant date 8-5-11)
- May 2011 warrant was received on September 7, 2011 (warrant date 8-30-11)
- June 2011 warrant was received on October 17, 2011 (warrant date 10-10-11)

Given the fact that IDHS funded program providers received payment on such a horrific schedule; resulted in agencies encountering a domino affect of situations beyond our control. Fortunately for us we were able to sustain and continue to provide services yet, it prohibited us from meeting unrealistic performance measures during these times.

I would employ you to make some visits to agencies like The Link & Option Center, Inc. and see the prevention work in action. Even though our funding was unjustly eliminated, youth in the community still pile in our Safe Haven facility because they want and need to be there. Only now they come without receiving nutritious meals or even a simple carton of milk because we no longer have our Certified Food Handler to receive meals for our Kids Café.

What has happened is not good budgeting for results.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Twin D. Green, Founder & President
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